



## Growing babies and businesses

WHEN Vickie Burkinshaw was pregnant with her first child, she had no doubt she would return to the corporate world to continue her career.

But things turned out quite differently for the former national communications manager for retail giant The Body Shop.

"I was on maternity leave and I thought I would be back in the fold after a couple of months," Ms Burkinshaw said. "But I fell in love with my baby and didn't want to go back, so I quit."

The 41-year-old Box Hill North resident continued to work on a contract basis with her former employer and helped secure Federal Government funding in 2006 to establish Indigenous Business Australia.

Ms Burkinshaw then became a facilitator for small business workshops for indigenous communities from regional Victoria, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

But when her second child came along, travel became more difficult.

Ms Burkinshaw then established Bizness Babes, a not-for-profit organisation helping mothers and women with little or no access to mainstream business education ignite their entrepreneurial spirit.

The Melbourne program expanded into Sydney and Brisbane and has helped more than 300 women create successful micro-enterprises in the past five years.

To help meet the demand for the Bizness Babes program, Ms Burkinshaw launched

*The Bizness Book* last month.  
Details: [biznessbabes.com.au](http://biznessbabes.com.au)



Aimee Kousis who runs Cafe Prahran and has gone through the program with Vickie Burkinshaw at Cafe Prahran.

Picture: MARK WILSON N19MP812